

THE MORNING ASTORIAN.

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THE SEMI-WEEKLY ASTORIAN.

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ASTORIAN PUBLISHING COMPANY.

SACREDNESS OF THE FLAG.

Under a New York statute which makes it unlawful to attach to a national flag or the representation of a national flag any words, marks or advertisements, exploiting the merits of merchandise or in any way advancing the business interests of an individual or corporation a case was recently tried in that state, which resulted in the imposing of an unfavorable construction upon this eminently commendable law says the Call. The court decided that the enforcement of this statute was in violation of the legitimate exercise of the police power and that it made an unfair discrimination against merchandise, in that jewelers, seal-makers and stationery embossers were exempt from its operations as the law now stands.

It has been said by biting critics from across the water that Americans have no sense of reverence and very little conception of the eternal fitness of things. Our Old World friends are prone to aver that the pursuit of the almighty dollar will lead the average American where angels fear to tread and they take great glee in pointing out as instance the fearful and wonderful spirit which moves the advertising methods of some of our merchants. "Pale Pellets" painted on the craggy scarp of the Niagara; "La Mort Cigarettes" flashed upon the clouds by a stereopticon; "Aunt Hanna's Twin Babies Dedicated Dessert" hung in the air by a string of kites—these are the things that appeal to the uncommercial and highly Ruskinized sensibilities of our European cousins with something of a shock. When they see, as the limit, little children raise the hands in daily salute to the flag, and then, within the same hour, mayhap, bring home to their mother a can of beans or a rasher of bacon with the stars and stripes gleaming effulgently from the gaudy wrapper thereof, they must indeed be pardoned for thinking a few things about the intricacies in the American character.

If the state law in New York has proven ineffectual in stopping the practice of adopting our national banner to the exigencies of trade it has within the power of congress to make a ruling which shall be binding the country over. The government has power to regulate the use of every emblem of its existence. By restricting the functional qualities of the flag to those proper one of patriotic expression and the exemplification of the majesty of the government congress could bring about a far healthier respect for the emblem of our nation and save it from becoming cheapened in our eyes by association with canned tomatoes or ladies' hosiery.

A SOCIALISTIC FALSITY.

A correspondent of the Socialistic colony of Equality accuses the Post-Intelligencer of misrepresentation because it stated that there has been no new law enacted by congress making military service compulsory, says the P-I. This correspondent encloses a copy of the new military law, with comment from socialistic sources.

The Post-Intelligencer explained, very carefully and in a manner clear enough for the comprehension of even such a man as the one who sends this communication, that for more than one hundred years the statute law of this country has contained provisions to the effect that the militia should consist of all able bodied men between the ages of 18 and 45, and that the new law continued these provisions in force. This is the unorganized militia. There are no longer rules for its government. It merely constitutes the mass of people from whom, by voluntary enlistment the organized militia is drawn.

The third section of the new act, and all of the other provisions from thence on relate in express terms only to the "regularly enlisted, organized and uniformed active militia of the several states and territories," for which government provision is made.

Every man of intelligence enough to read and write should know that service in the "regularly enlisted, organized and uniformed active militia" of the several states and territories is purely voluntary; it always has been so, save for a very brief period during the great Civil war; and it is so now under the new law.

Every man of like intelligence should know, whether he does or not, that every country, the

United States included, has the right to call to its defense in periods of great public stress when its existence is threatened, every able bodied man in the country, of suitable age, to bear arms.

In neither of these respects does the new military law differ in the slightest degree from the preceding military laws, including the very first ones passed after the constitution was adopted.

For the purposes of their peculiar propaganda, certain socialist leaders have endeavored to persuade some of the more feeble-minded among their following that there is something sinister in the provisions of the new military law, constituting a radical departure from precedent. The letter from Equality demonstrates that they have not been without success in working on material of this class.

GREAT AMERICAN JOURNALISTS.

Two men whose names are as familiar to the American public as those of any men connected with the profession of journalism in this country appear on the lecture platform in Tacoma in close succession, says the Tacoma Ledger. Mr. Homer Davenport was greeted by a large and appreciative audience at the Tacoma theater on Saturday evening. Colonel Henry Watterson, the veteran editor of the Louisville Courier-Journal, appears tonight as the last attraction in the Y. M. C. A. star course at the Tacoma. Mr. Davenport has made his mark as a cartoonist in a field in which originality, keen perception and artistic ability are in great demand, and fill a conspicuous and important part in the newspaper of today. The cartoonist is the man who draws editorials with a piece of charcoal. He tells his story and points his moral with a picture. The best editorial is hardly as effective as a picture. It is not read by one person where 20 see the point made by the cartoonist. There are only a few men whose written utterances are as pointed, effective and telling as a great cartoon. Colonel Watterson is one of the few men who write tremendously powerful and effective editorials. His language is picturesque and does not require translation.

Both of these men have been unsparing with the lash. Both of them have the ability to tear off the mask and disclose the features beneath as they see them. The possession of such power is a dangerous thing unless it is fairly used. Men have writhed under the sting of the charcoal stroke from the hand of the one or the caustic criticism of the other. Both are masters of satire, and both have contributed largely to the formation of widely prevalent impressions in regard to many men, policies and conditions. It is a rare treat to see and hear these men. They are men of extraordinary genius, and whether one agrees with their sentiments or not, the time spent in hearing their lectures is profitably employed.

Colonel Younghusband has had no difficulty to speak of in carrying the outlying Tibetan forts, but he may find Lhasa quite a difficult kind of a nut to crack if the grand lama persists in his determination to resist to the end with the full force of his fanatical following.

If the Japanese have destroyed a bridge on the railway between Port Arthur and the port of Newchwang it would seem as though they might soon cut the line permanently, in which case things look badly indeed for the Russians in the Liaotung peninsula.

Poor old Madame Janauschek, one of the greatest actresses that ever lived has had to swallow her pride and to be cared for in her old and penniless age in the actors' home on Staten island. What a contrast from her days of real as well as mimic splendor.

It is the irony of fate that Verestchagin, the painter who endlessly struggled for peace by painting the horrors of war, should have been on board the Petropavlovsk when she went to the bottom in one of the most tragic events of the war.

Of course Captain Fritz acquired title to that half-interest in 600,000 acres of land in British Columbia in partnership with a railroad company by actual settlement for homestead purposes rather than by any system of land grabbing.

A Kentucky judge has declared that all of General Cassius M. Clay's wills are invalid because he was of unsound mind. It is mighty lucky for that judge that the old fighter is dead and can't read his opinion.

When you think it all over carefully it does not appear so very strange that the Chinese have no excess love for the American government or people.

Grover Cleveland's endorsement of Judge Parker was not quite strong enough to turn the Bryan boys to support of Richard Olney.

It is not quite certain whether Montana has a snow storm or this April flurry has drifted out from the east.

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Gets His Revenge.

Uriah Utter, an old citizen of Amity, N. Y., has just purchased the ancient schoolhouse in which he obtained his education. As soon as he got possession of it he set men to work tearing it down and destroying the material, out of revenge for some of the whippings which he received beneath its roof.

Mr. Utter says the punishment he received in his school days 60 years ago was unjust, and through all his life he has held bitter feelings against the teachers who administered the thrashings and has also regarded the old school building as his enemy.

Years ago he declared that if the opportunity ever offered he would destroy the building, and with that end in view he saved sufficient money to purchase the structure and obliterate it.—Philadelphia North American.

O. R. & N.

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| St. Paul Fast Mail 7:45 p. m. via Spo- kane | Walla Walla, Lewi- ston, Spokane, Minne- apolis, St. Paul, Duluth, Milwaukee, Chicago, and East | 8:00 p. m. |

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|------------|---|---------------------------|
| 8:00 a. m. | Portland Union De- pot for Astoria and Way Points | 11:10 a. m. 9:40 p. m. |

ASTORIA

| | | |
|------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 7:45 a. m. | For Portland and Way Points | 11:30 a. m. 10:30 p. m. |
|------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|

SEASIDE DIVISION

| | | |
|-------------|--|----------------------------|
| 8:15 a. m. | Astoria for Warren- ton, Flavel, Fort | 7:40 a. m. 4:00 p. m. |
| 11:35 a. m. | Stevens, Hammond | 10:45 a. m. and Seaside |

| | | |
|------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 6:15 a. m. | Seaside for War- renton, Flavel, | 12:30 p. m. 7:30 p. m. |
| 9:30 a. m. | Hammond, Fort Stevens & Astoria | 9:25 a. m. |

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